

## OFFICIALS PROBE NEW TAYLOR CLUES

## WEEKS RECEIVES THIRD PROPOSAL FOR POWER SITE

Offer of Frederick Engstrom for Muscle Shoals Is Presented.

## U. S. TO RETAIN TITLE

Alabama Representative Urges Acceptance of Ford Offer in House.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Consolidation was given Thursday by both the war department and the house military committee to the question of disposing of the government's power and nitrate projects at Muscle Shoals to private enterprises for completion and operation.

Sec'y Weeks received the final draft of the offer made by Frederick E. Engstrom of Wilmington, N. C., for completion of the Wilson dam and operation of the nitrate plants for the fixation of nitrogen from the air and production of fertilizers under a proposed 50-year lease.

The military committee heard Gray Silver and R. F. Bower, Washington representative and assistant, respectively, of the American Federation of Parn Bureau, who enthusiastically advocated the proposal made by Henry Ford for a 100-year lease and outright purchase of the Muscle Shoals projects. Both denounced the offer submitted by the Alabama Power company for purchase of the Warrior Steam Plant and 50-year lease of the remaining properties.

Muscle Shoals also was discussed in the house Thursday when Rep. Huddleston of Alabama declared that 99 per cent of the people of Alabama urged acceptance of the Ford proposal. He asserted they would rather see the Tennessee river go to the government than have the Alabama Power Co. take over the property.

Engstrom's offer was summarized in a statement addressed to Sec'y Weeks which read in part as follows:

The United States is not divested of title to any of its property, but retains ownership and preserves assets of approximately \$141,000,000.

Returns from investment on a basis of 400,000 K. W. gross development under the lease will pay to the government approximately \$3,500,000 per year for fifty years, or a total at compound interest at 4 per cent of approximately \$37,000,000, which cash will be used to produce cheap nitrate for fertilizer.

The method proposed to finance by the sale of excess power, the manufacture of nitrate is the only possible method by which nitrate can be produced under present known methods and sold to the American farmer at a price less than the "chicken product." The quantity of nitrate and fertilizers annually produced will be limited only by the amount of excess power sold and the price at which the nitrate may be sold.

The proposal omitted any provision for the immediate construction of dam number three.

Chairman Kahn announced Thursday night that W. B. Mayo, chief engineer at the Ford company, would be heard after the conclusion of the statements to be made by the Alabama Power Co. and his testimony would be the committee's investigation for the present at least, of the Ford proposal.

## OHIO COLLIERIES CO. REFUSES TO CONFER

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—George M. Jones, president of the Ohio Collieries Co. of Toledo, Thursday declined the invitation of Pres't John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers for a meeting of union officials and operators to set dates for negotiating a wage scale for the central competitive field.

Mr. Jones is said to be the largest operator not affiliated with any of the Ohio operators' associations.

In a telegram received Thursday by Pres't Lewis, Mr. Jones said: "Answering your request for a meeting of operators and miners of the central competitive field at Cleveland, the time has arrived when we prefer to negotiate a mining scale for our district with our employees, and must decline to meet you at Cleveland. We are ready to meet representatives of our employees at any time to negotiate a scale for our district."

## Announcement!

On the back page of this edition you will find an interesting announcement of the official Spring opening of South Bend's retail stores.

## Breckenridge Long To Oppose Sen. Reed

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 23.—Breckenridge Long of St. Louis Thursday filed a declaration of his candidacy for United States senator on the democratic ticket with Secretary of State Becker. Mr. Long announced that he will open headquarters here immediately. Mr. Long was formerly third assistant secretary of state.

## LODGE PROPOSAL OF RESERVATION HOTLY OPPOSED

Substitute for Brandegee Reservation Fought in Committee Meeting.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—An administrative move for a compromise on reservations to the four-power Pacific treaty failed of immediate success Thursday after it had stirred up a spirited debate in the senate foreign relations committee.

Coming directly from a conference with Pres't Harding, Chairman Lodge, of the committee, laid before his colleagues a revised reservation, declaring in specific terms that the treaty does not contemplate an "alliance" and drafted to take the place of the blanket reservation to which a majority of the committee members previously had indicated their support.

Those who had sponsored the original blanket qualification immediately opened fire on the new reservation, and the hour of debate which followed was described by senators present as the stormiest passage witnessed in the committee since the days of the Versailles treaty fight. Sen. Borah, of Idaho, and Sen. Johnson, of California, among the republicans, and Sen. Pomeroy, of Ohio, on the democratic side, were said to have led the opposition to the administration proposal, while all the other reservationists reserved final judgment.

In his advocacy of the modified draft, Sen. Lodge was seconded by Sens. Kellogg, of Minnesota, and New, of Indiana, both republicans.

The promise attitude of the president regarding reservations was not explained to the committee by Sen. Lodge, but members gained the impression that Mr. Harding was not disposed to accede to the blanket proposal. It was indicated, however, that the White House would like to see all reservations voted down, but failing that, would continue to seek whatever reservation appeared possible in the reservation proposals.

In developing their position, however, the administration leaders are moving warily. Sen. Lodge did not present his revised draft to the committee Thursday as an administrative proposal acceptable to the president. He is understood to have only "suggested it" without committing either himself or Mr. Harding to its support.

## PREPARE TO HONOR VICTIMS OF CRASH

Public Funeral Services Will Be Held for 34 Victims of Roma.

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 23.—The investigation by a board of army officers of the disaster of the semi-rigid airship Roma was continued here Thursday, but no word was permitted to leak out of the executive sessions concerning the character of evidence presented. The board is expected to complete its inquiry and report to Washington within a few days.

Meanwhile preparations were begun for public funeral services for the 34 victims at Newport News Friday. All business will be suspended here and in that city while the British chief service is held under direction of army chaplains.

Failure of the controls to function properly is believed by some of the survivors to have been the immediate cause of the disaster, although Charles W. Devere, superintendent of airship construction at McCook field, Dayton, Ohio, who was injured in the crash stated Thursday that the failure of the controls to work was an aerodynamic theory and was not necessarily the cause of the trouble.

Maj. John D. Reardon, another of the injured, on the other hand, said that "the wreck of the Roma was undoubtedly due to failure of controls."

## ROB SOFT DRINK BAR PROPRIETOR OF \$4,000

GRANITE CITY, Ill., Feb. 23.—While a young woman sat at the head of her machine and kept the motor running, three automobile bandits held up and took \$4,000 from Louis Cool, proprietor of a soft drink bar here. Cool was returning from the bank with the money accompanied by his daughter-in-law.

The bandits overlooked \$3,800 which Cool had hidden inside his shirt.

## GEDDES RESIGNS.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Sir Eric Geddes, former first lord of the admiralty and later minister of transport, formally resigned his seat in the house of commons today. He returned to business life.

## Charred Bodies of Victims Taken From Ruins



Rescue parties of soldiers and civilians worked for hours in the debris of the army dirigible Roma, wrecked and ravaged by flames at Norfolk, Va. This photograph, taken shortly after the disaster, shows the search for bodies of victims. In the center, rescuers are shown removing the charred body of one of those who lost their lives in the air disaster.

## URGES RECALLING LOANS TO STATES AS BONUS SOURCE

Collection of Loans in 1936 to 28 States Would Net \$124,000,000.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Rep. representative Andrews, republican, Nebraska, came forward with a proposal to finance a bonus party through the collection from 28 states of \$23,101,644.91 loaned them by the federal government \$6 years ago. He introduced a bill to direct the treasury department to call for a refund of the principal and interest at four percent from the date of the loans. This would yield a total of \$124,000,000, Mr. Andrews estimated.

Explaining the existence of the fund, Mr. Andrews said that in 1930, with a surplus of funds on hand and no secure place to store them, congress enacted legislation transferring the fund to states on the basis of population with the stipulation that it was to remain with the states "until congress directs otherwise." Congress has the authority, Mr. Andrews contends, to require repayment.

The amounts loaned the states, which in each instance, if repaid, with the states' interest would total more than four times the principal, follow:

Maine and Maryland, \$955,838 each; Alabama, New Hampshire and Vermont, \$669,056 each; Massachusetts, \$1,338,172; Connecticut and New Jersey, \$764,670 each; Mississippi, Missouri and Rhode Island, \$382,335 each; New York, \$4,014,920; Pennsylvania, \$2,587,614; Virginia, \$2,198,427; South Carolina and Georgia, \$1,061,422 each; Louisiana and Illinois, \$477,919 each; Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee, \$1,433,757 each; Ohio, \$2,007,260; Indiana, \$860,254; Arkansas, Delaware and Michigan, \$286,751 each.

## OSER RETICENT ON COMING MARRIAGE

Swiss Reports Say Heires' Fiance Is of Staidious and Artistic Character.

ZURICH, Switzerland, Feb. 23.—Swiss society may buzz with interest, but Max Oser simply does not talk about his forthcoming marriage with Miss Mathilde McCormick, the youthful granddaughter of John D. Rockefeller. What the public learns must be gleaned from his friends. "He is one of the finest horsemen in the Swiss army," said an official friend Thursday.

Over lost his father and mother long ago and he now lives alone. He has only one younger brother, who is in South America. He has no relatives in the United States. He is of staidious and artistic character, and neither has nor seeks many friends.

According to the Swiss marriage law, the fiancée must go through the same civil marriage process as Mrs. William B. Leeds, who married Prince Christopher of Greece, and other prominent Americans who have been wed in Switzerland. The bride-to-be must reside in the country three weeks before marriage. The couple must have their full names, ages, professions and residences placarded in large print on the wall of the town hall facing the street for three weeks before the ceremony.

## Air Service May Abandon Roma Type of Dirigibles

Investigation of Roma Disaster May Lead to Inquiry as to Military Value of All Lighter-Than-Air Craft—Weeks Denies Congress Is Responsible.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—An inquiry by the army air service into the whole question of the military value of lighter-than-air craft is expected to grow out of the Roma disaster.

Officers of the air service said Thursday that such an inquiry would be necessary because loss of the Roma had entirely upset training and operating programs for that branch of the service. From the inquiry, it is understood, will come a decision as to whether there is sufficient military value, direct or indirect, in the employment by the army of dirigible aircraft of great size to warrant recommendations to congress for the acquisition of new craft of the lighter-than-air type.

No justification for replacement of the Roma.

Sec'y Weeks, in this connection, said today he had not discussed with his military advisers the replacement of the Roma, but felt there was no justification for asking the purchase or construction of a new vessel of the same type.

The war secretary, after a conference Thursday with Maj. Gen. Patrick, chief of the army air service, who had just returned from Langley field, where he made a personal preliminary investigation of the disaster, was represented as satisfied on the basis

of present information that the accident was due to the breaking of elevating rudder controls or the supports for the elevating gear, and that there was no structural defect involved of a nature that probably could have been detected in advance. Mr. Weeks said, however, that he would have department records investigated fully to see what reports had been made by operating officers at any time as to the condition of the ship.

He had no knowledge, he said, of any complaint in connection with the ability of the crew to control the flight of the Roma, except for the motor difficulties which led to the replacing of the original Italian engines with American-built Liberty motors.

If any officer of the Roma had knowledge before the accident of weaknesses of the vessel or structural defects which rendered her in the least unsafe for operation, Mr. Weeks said, it was the duty of that officer to report the facts to his superiors, for the protection of himself and of his associates on the ship.

## TWO MORE COUNTS AGAINST RICKARD

Grand Jury Returns Another Set of Indictments Against Promoter.

By Associated Press. NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—"Tex" Rickard, sports promoter, Thursday night was under four indictments charging him with misconduct with four school girls, aged from 11 to 15.

Two of the indictments, alleging abduction of Nellie Gasko, 15 and Anna Hess, 11, were returned Thursday by a supreme court grand jury. The other pair, handed down several days ago by a supreme court grand jury, charged him with abduction of a girl upon Alice Rick, 14, and Sara Schoenfeld, 15.

Over protest of Rickard's counsel, Justice Wasservogel raised Rickard's bail from \$10,000, fixed for him when the first two indictments were returned, to \$25,000.

Thursday's indictments alleged that Rickard abducted the Gasko girl Nov. 13, and the Hess child Dec. 15, the latter date being the one on which he was accused of assaulting her companion, Alice Rick.

## FOUR MORE WALL STREET BROKERS FORCED TO WALL

Involuntary Petitions in Bankruptcy Filed in Federal Court.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Financial storms in speculative Wall st., which swept the brokerage firm of Kardos and Burke into bankruptcy Wednesday night, hit four more houses Thursday.

Involuntary petitions in bankruptcy were filed in federal court against:

S. S. Ruskey and Co., liabilities estimated at \$2,500,000 and assets at \$1,500,000.

J. W. Ball and Co., liabilities estimated at \$150,000 and assets at \$10,000.

Rodney and Co., liabilities and assets not given.

The New York curb market announced the suspension of Ruskey and Co. for alleged failure to meet its engagements.

Unusual interest attached to the Kardos and Burke failure because the junior member of the firm, John Burke, was treasurer of the United States under former Pres't Wilson. He resigned in 1921 to go into business with Kardos, a 25-year-old broker who started in Wall st. eight years ago as a \$10 a week messenger boy.

"The whole thing reminds me of the old adage," Burke said, "that a cobbler should stick to his last. I am a lawyer by profession. I made a mistake going into the brokerage business, concerning which I find I knew too little."

"I want the situation cleared up, all transactions of the firm cleared wide to the public. I know such a process would involve me personally, and I have not the slightest doubt but what it would clear up insinuations against the firm."

## FLYER HITS SNOW PLOW—FIVE DEAD

Crack Train of Great Northern in Head-On Crash Near Minneapolis.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 23.—Five trainmen were killed and five injured and scores of passengers shaken up when train No. 10, through flyer on the Great Northern railroad, and snowplow collided head on between Delano and Montrose, 30 miles west of here, late Thursday. The dead were buried beneath the wreckage of three engines. Number 10 was bound for Minneapolis, carrying a heavy load and pulled by two engines.

Passengers from trains No. 14 and No. 32, which had been stalled, were being taken to the Twin Cities on No. 10.

All the dead trainmen were residents of St. Paul and Willmar, Minn.

The postmaster general asked that \$2,000,000 be included for air mail, declaring it had been proved successful. The house in passing the postoffice bill eliminated all provision for air mail service.

Mr. Hays said Thursday he would assume his new duties as director-general of the National Motion Picture Producers' Association, Inc., March 6.

He declined to discuss his plans and refused to confirm a report that he plans a trip to Hollywood, the motion picture center near Los Angeles, soon after taking over his new work.

## Society Women Lose \$560,000 in Swindle

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Alleged to have defrauded 12 or 14 society women of at least \$560,000, Alfred E. Lindsey, a broker of South Street, is being sought to face charges that he made off with the entire personal fortune of Mrs. Lillian Duke, divorced wife of James B. Duke, the tobacco king. Mrs. Duke charges Lindsey got all her cash \$325,000 and jewelry worth \$250,000.

## IRISH TRUCE IS WELCOMED BY ALL FACTIONS

Each Side Feels Adjournment Meets Necessities of Situation.

DUBLIN, Feb. 23.—Inquiries Thursday among persons favorable to the Anglo-Irish treaty and the followers of Eamonn De Valera indicated both sides to the controversy are equally satisfied with the three months truce arranged at the meeting of the Ard Fheis Wednesday. Each side seemed to believe that the adjournment of the Ard Fheis meets the necessities of the situation.

Motives actuating both elements in arriving at the compact were to check the growing bitterness of the election campaign and to endeavor to consolidate the Irish republican army. One great advantage to the provisional government over the action taken by the Ard Fheis is considered to be its security against a sudden defeat in the Dail Eirann where, assuming that the members remain of the same opinion as when Mr. De Valera was replaced by Arthur Griffith, a mere transfer of only four votes would be sufficient to put the provisional ministers in the minority.

Allows Unhindered Action.

Administration of the machinery of the Irish government, it is stated, is bound to provoke more or less serious differences of opinion and the necessity of the meeting of the Dail Eirann with the possibility of the government being overthrown, would have seriously hampered activities of the provisional ministry. The agreement with the Ard Fheis throughout the effective existence of the Dail while removing the chance that it might use its position to reverse its attitude toward the provisional government. Therefore, the government is safe from coercive interference "for some months, though not for criticism."

Mr. De Valera, who throughout has expressed his conviction that the Irish people would accept his views in opposition to the treaty if he were only given time to influence their minds, is said to have been indignant over preparations to hurry elections on what he considered a vague issue.

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## CHINESE, NAMED IN CONFESSION, IS NOW SOUGHT

Member of "Dope" Ring, Implicated by Fields, Has Disappeared.

## REVOLVER HUNT FUTILE

Authorities Not Disposed to Condemn Detroit Suspect's Story.

## BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Feb. 23.—Mabel Normand, film actress, is critically ill, her physician announced Thursday night, according to a story the Los Angeles Examiner will publish Friday. The crisis in her case was expected to be reached soon, it was stated.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Feb. 23.—A Chinese bearing the name of Wong Lee—the same as that of the Chinese said by Harry M. Fields, in Detroit, to have been a member of the group of persons who drove to the home of William Desmond Taylor, the night the film director was murdered—left Los Angeles' Chinatown two days ago, it was announced Friday night by sheriff's deputies at work on the case.

The officers said they had nothing to lead them to believe that the Chinese had anything to do with the slaying of Taylor but they pointed out that his departure was simultaneous with the first intimations from Detroit that Fields might have important information in connection with the case.

Revolver Search Futile.

Search for the revolver with which William Desmond Taylor was slain Thursday night was abandoned Thursday after the deputy sheriff had spent about 15 hours in a painstaking search of the place where Harry N. Fields had said it could be found.

Fields, held in Detroit on a forgery charge, made what purported to be a full statement of his connection with the Taylor murder, telling the officers at Detroit that he was the chauffeur of the car in which the slaying of Taylor took place.

As a circumstance of his statement Fields described the place where he said the revolver was thrown but detectives could find no weapon.

The deputies reported, however, that there were no many bedbugs, thickets and other possible places of concealment that they failed to find conclusive proof that the Fields statement was true, but were inclined to take their failure as an indication that the double of Fields' story expressed by the Detroit officers probably were well founded.

Fields' Story.

According to Fields' story as telegraphed by Sheriff Irvine I. Coffin, of Detroit to Sheriff William I. Traeger here, the murder of Taylor was plotted in a "hop joint" at Venice, a beach suburb of Los Angeles.

Arrangements were completed shortly before noon, Feb. 2, for hours or more before Taylor was killed, the telegraphed details continued. At that time a woman named by Fields as Jennie Moore, and Wong Lee, a Chinese, and an American, Johnnie Clark, sat in a dining room in Venice and rehearsed alleged plans for slaying Taylor because of their belief he was interfering with the drug traffic.

Fields who claimed the ownership of a small automatic, said he was offered \$500 for trying the murder party to the Taylor apartments at 404 R. South Alvarado st., Los Angeles, near West Lake park, but he maintained he was not invited to take an active part in the murder.

At 3:30 o'clock the afternoon of Feb. 1, the statement continued: "The party left Venice. On the way to Los Angeles, they passed through the Hollywood section where they waited until after darkness, and at 7:30 o'clock drove to the Taylor apartments. They stopped the car, according to the language of the so-called confession, 'the doors south of the Taylor bungalow on Alvarado st., and on the other side of the street.' At this point according to Detroit messages, Fields resorted to his own theory as to what then took place in the Taylor apartments. But Fields was said to have declared, the woman carrying an automatic pistol, heavily laden the Chinese holding a .35 caliber break-down pistol, and Clark carrying a blackjack, left the automobile and disappeared into the bungalow court."

Hours Shot.

Three minutes later, according to Fields, he heard the muffled report of a revolver and three seconds later the woman, the Chinese and Clark were back again in the car urging Fields to "go away from here."

As he was starting the car, Fields stated, the Chinese sprang out of it saying: "Wait a minute, wait a minute."

Wong Lee then ran about thirty feet up a nearby court and hid his revolver under "something" according to Fields.

The remainder of the night was passed at the Venice "hop joint" as Fields described it and the following day Wong Lee and Fields departed.

THE WEATHER.

Indiana—Fair and colder Friday; Saturday—Fair and colder.

Lower Michigan—Snow showers and colder Friday; Saturday fair.